

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USLO PEKING

SECSTATE WASHDC 8405

UNCLAS HONG KONG 14796

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SUBJECT: FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW PRAISES NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE

1. DECEMBER 18 FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW CARRIES FULL PAGE EDITORIAL: "THE FORD DOCTRINE." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:
 2. "MOST COMMENTARIES ON PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP TO PEKING, MANILA, JAKARTA AND HONOLULU AGREE WITH THE PREDICTIONS MADE BY THIS PUBLICATION THAT IT DID NOT ACHIEVE MUCH THAT WAS WORTHWHILE OR ANY UNDERSTANDING WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN REACHED THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT THESE JUDGEMENTS ARE MISTAKEN. THE TRIP MIGHT JUST MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND MORE HEALTHY ERA IN AMERICA'S PACIFIC STRATEGY IF (AND IT IS A BIG IF) FORD IS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR.
 3. "FORD'S NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE HAS ALSO BEEN DISMISSED AS WINDY RHETORIC. IN FACT IT WAS A STATESMANLIKE SPEECH, OUTLINING SIX BASIC BASIC PILLARS OF A NEW, POST-INDOCHINA POLICY TOWARDS THE REGION. IT WAS THE SORT OF RHETORIC WHICH ASIA HAS
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WAITED FOR SINCE NEXON'S GUAM DOCTRINE OF 1969. FORD SAID

THAT IN FUTURE AMERICA WOULD DEDICATE ITS STRENGTH NOT ONLY TO ITS OWN CONCERN FOR SECURITY, BUT ALSO TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ASIAN NATIONS AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF A STABLE BALANCE OF POWER (A PLEDGE WHICH WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME IN PEKING AND TOKYO AS WELL AS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA).

4. "PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT TENET OF THE NEW DOCTRINE WAS A RECOGNITION THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS TO REPLACE THE OLD-STYLE POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITMENTS. HE RECOGNISED THAT U.S. TRADE WITH EAST ASIA NOW EXCEEDS U.S. TRANSACTIONS WITH THE EEC AND IS GROWING AT OVER 30-0/0 A YEAR. HE DESCRIBED U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS A 'MODEST RESPONSIBILITY' AND ALSO DOWNGRADED AID PROGRAMMES ('WE NO LONGER APPROACH THEM AS DONOR TO DEPENDENT'). AT LAST AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS REALISED THAT THE 'PROUD PEOPLES' OF SOUTHEAST ASIA LOOK TO THE U.S. LESS FOR AID THAN FOR TRADE AND FOR MORE EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

5. "OF COURSE, IT MAY ALL TURN OUT TO BE WINDY RHETORIC, BUT IT MADE BETTER SENSE AND COMPRISED A LESS SELFISH APPRAISAL OF ASIAN REALITIES THAN DID THE PLAN FOR NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER WHICH AMERICA OUTLINED TO THE U.N. LAST SEPTEMBER."

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